AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A composition for improving lipid metabolism having lactoferrin as an active ingredient.

2. (Previously Presented) A composition for treating at least one disease to be selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyper-neutral lipidemia, hyper-low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterolemia, hypo-high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterolemia, obesity, fatty liver and cholesterol gallstone which has lactoferrin as an active ingredient.

3. (Previously Presented) A composition for enhancing basal metabolic rate which has lactoferrin as an active ingredient.

4. (Original) The composition of any one of claims 1 to 3 which is in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule and can be obtained by the steps comprising mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 which is in the form of an enteric coated preparation.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein tableted granules containing the active component is coated with a film having, as the major component, a base which has resistance to the gastric juice and dissolves in the small intestine.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 which is for the administration of the active ingredient in an amount of about 0.1 mg to about 50,000 mg, preferably about 0.5 mg to about 10,000 mg, more preferably about 10 mg to about 2,000 mg a day.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a composition of ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1 comprising the steps of mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules, said composition being in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule.

9. (Previously Presented) Use of lactoferrin as an active ingredient in producing a drug for improving lipid metabolism.

10. (Previously Presented) Use of lactoferrin as an active ingredient in producing a drug for treating at least one disease or condition to be selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyper-neutral lipidemia, hyper-low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterolemia, hypo-high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterolemia, obesity, fatty liver and cholesterol gallstone.

11. (Previously Presented) Use of lactoferrin as an active ingredient in producing a drug for treating a disease or condition for which the improvement of basal metabolic rate is to be effective.

12. (Original) The use of any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the drug is in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule and can be obtained by the steps comprising mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules.

13. (Currently Amended) The use of ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9, wherein the drug is in the form of an enteric coated preparation.

14. (Currently Amended) The use of ~~any one of claims 9 to 12~~ claim 9, wherein the drug is obtained by coating tableted granules containing the active ingredient with a film having, as the main component, a base which has resistance to the gastric juice and dissolves in the small intestine.

15. (Currently Amended) The use of ~~any one of claims 9 to 14~~ claim 9, wherein the drug is for the administration of the active ingredient in an amount of about 0.1 mg to about 50,000 mg, preferably about 0.5 mg to about 10,000 mg, more preferably about 10 mg to about 2,000 mg a day.

16. (Currently Amended) The use of ~~any one of claims 9 to 15~~ claim 9, wherein the drug is in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule and can be obtained by the steps comprising mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules.

17. (Previously Presented) A method of improving lipid metabolism comprising using lactoferrin as an active ingredient.

18. (Previously Presented) A method of treating at least one disease or condition to be selected from the group consisting of hypercholesterolemia, hyper-neutral lipidemia, hyper-low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterolemia, hypo-high density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterolemia, obesity, fatty liver and cholesterol gallstone comprising using lactoferrin as an active ingredient.

19. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a disease or condition for which the improvement of basal metabolic rate is to be effective comprising using lactoferrin as an active ingredient.

20. (Original) The method of any one of claims 17 to 19, wherein the active ingredient is used in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule which can be obtained by the steps of mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the active ingredient is in the form of an enteric coated preparation.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the active ingredient is obtained by coating tableted granules containing the active ingredient with a film having, as the main component, a base which has resistance to the gastric juice and dissolves in the small intestine.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21 comprising administering the active ingredient in an amount of about 0.1 mg to about 50,000 mg, preferably about 0.5 mg to about 10,000 mg, more preferably about 10 mg to about 2,000 mg a day.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 comprising administering the active ingredient in an amount of about 0.1 mg to about 50,000 mg, preferably about 0.5 mg to about 10,000 mg, more preferably about 10 mg to about 2,000 mg a day.

25. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the active ingredient is in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule which can be obtained by the steps comprising mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the active ingredient is in the form of a dusting powder, a powder, a granule, a tablet or a capsule which can be obtained by the steps comprising mixing the active ingredient with pharmaceutically acceptable additives in the dry state; if desired, subjecting the mixture to strong pressure molding in the dry state and successively forming the molded product into fine particulates or granules of a uniform size; and if desired, tableting or encapsulating the mixture, the fine particulates or granules.